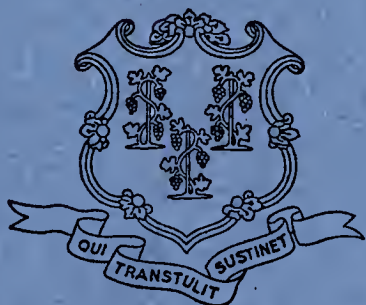


TERCENTENARY COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT



COMMITTEE ON  
HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

XLVII

*A Lawyer of Kent:  
Barzillai Slosson and His Account  
Books, 1794—1812*

MABEL SEYMOUR

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*A Lawyer of Kent:  
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MABEL SEYMOUR

With the collaboration of Elizabeth Forgeus<sup>1</sup>

I

ONE of the interesting historical documents in the Library of the Yale Law School is a manuscript daybook kept by a Connecticut lawyer, Barzillai Slosson of Kent, to record the legal business he transacted from the month of June, 1795, shortly after he had opened an office and begun practice in the lower courts, to the last of September, 1798, by which time he had attained the status of a local magistrate, a member of the General Assembly, and a practitioner in the Superior Court. The writer's reputation for accuracy was a tradition of the Litchfield County Bar, and the fidelity with which his records reflect the conditions under which the Connecticut lawyer lived and practiced in the last years of the eighteenth century is beyond question.

The manuscript was presented to the Yale Law Li-

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Librarian of the Yale Law School.

brary, through the intercession of Mr. Harrison Hewitt, by Mr. Otto J. Leonhard of Kent, who rescued it from the dust and rubbish of the old attic in which it had been lying for well over a century when he purchased the old Slosson homestead and set up the sign of the Flanders Arms under the maples its first owner had planted in 1739.

The record which this daybook presents has been supplemented by similar material in four other Slosson manuscripts which have come to light and have been made available by a temporary loan to the Yale Law Library through the courtesy of Mr. Leonhard and Miss Helen Bull of Kent.

## II

MUCH of the significance of the Slosson manuscripts lies in the fact that the lawyer who wrote them practiced his profession in the community where he and most of his clients were born, and where the legal problems that arose were chiefly local and personal. In this connection it is worth-while to review the relationship of the Slosson family to the town, and to their fellow citizens of Kent.

Barzillai Slosson was born in Kent, Connecticut, December 27, 1769, eldest of the ten children of Nathan and Elizabeth Hubbell Slosson, and third in descent from Nathaniel Slosson of Norwalk, who was one of the original proprietors of the town. His grandfather's homestead, where he was born and reared, was in the district called Flanders, on the original allotment which Nathaniel Slosson, "pitching for choice," had drawn in the first division of the township, and which, by the terms of the deed that confirmed him and five generations of his descendants in their title to this little piece of Connecticut land, he had covenanted to "subdue, clear and fence." When he first stepped foot upon that homestead, halting

his lean and footsore cattle beside the rough trail where a stake marked "21" indicated his "pitch," it was part of the wilderness that covered the Western Lands. But by 1769 when his grandson Barzillai was born, Kent looked upon itself as a prosperous and settled community. Farmsteads had been built, lands were cleared, pastures fenced, and orchards planted. Roads were laid out, and the Housatonic was bridged. The highway through Flanders came in from New Milford on the south, running down the steep slope of Cobble Mountain, between the long lines of stone wall which John Mills had built across the mountain side above his house, and passing in front of the training ground, Captain Pratt's house, and the tavern, on its way north past the parsonage, and on up the valley. The long irregular space which it circled on the east, cut through by a stream from the Cobble, was in Barzillai's time the Flanders Green, and the center of most of the activities of the town.

Town meetings were held there, though most of the business that came up in them seems to have been settled well in advance by Nathaniel Slosson and his political henchmen, Ebenezer Spooner and John Mills, either in the taproom under the "shew-maker's shop," or before the fireplace of Slosson's kitchen. The tavern and posting house, of course, stood on the Green; as did the school, the parsonage, the smithy, that same "shew-maker's shop" which had progressed by easy stages, first to a tannery and then to a taproom. Not far away, where the little brown stream turned sharply at the foot of the hill on its way to the river, stood the mill, with the miller's house built against it on the highway. All the little local industries, fostered with such care at first, were now flourishing concerns. The taverns, of course, were the most prosperous: drovers and teamsters waited over to



feed and rest their cattle in the public meadows below the mill; travelers between New York and Boston put up and stayed the night; or if in more urgent haste, they rested there and took a pipe and glass in the parlor while they waited for the smith to set a shoe.

In 1774, when Barzillai was five years old, a new meetinghouse was built on the little eminence of the Flanders Green across from Captain Pratt's and opposite the Slosson home. That same year Nathaniel Slosson, Barzillai's grandfather, now approaching his eightieth year, built a second house, on the site where his first one had stood and almost in a line with the new church on the Green. This house still stands, apparently as substantial inside and out, as it was on the day when the master builder who designed and made it laid down his tools. The entrance door, approached by broad, stone steps and entered through a porch ornamented with the beautiful detail which marks the group of old houses on Flanders Green, faced the highway where the first pioneer trail crossed it, and the lawn in front sloped down to the corner of the school lot opposite the tavern. The western windows of the house overlooked the meadows, the bend of the Housatonic, and the wooded mountains above. The eastern side of the house, with a second doorway and porch—lacking the fanlight and sidelights but otherwise quite as beautiful in its detail as the one in front—looked out across the Green to the church, to the Pratt house, and the blue overhanging hills beyond. The church is gone now, and the Green diminished by new highways; but the great maples that were planted around it by the original settlers are still standing, and the charm of the old houses, the dignified fitness of their structure to the landscape in which they were set, is a memorial to some unknown builder of colonial days.

Barzillai Slosson encountered no hardships in attending school. The schoolhouse stood then where its successor stands today, in the hollow at the foot of the old Green, not a stone's throw from his grandfather's doorway. Later in his career when other lawyers noted "the unfailing correctness of his orthography and use of terms" he modestly passed on the credit to the Kent school. He was indebted to his mother, however, for the love of the classics which gave distinction to his work in Yale, and remained the great intellectual interest of a busy life. Elizabeth Hubbell had been taught Latin and Greek by her grandfather, Richard Sackett, minister of the Second Church of Greenwich, and she brought with her some of her grandfather's books when she married Nathan Slosson and came to live with his parents at Flanders. If at any time Barzillai had needed more help than his mother was able to give, he could have found it at the parsonage, for the Reverend Joel Bordwell tutored many a country youth who was preparing for Harvard and Yale. No help, however, accounts wholly for the proficiency to which Judge David Boardman, writing of Slosson many years later, alludes:

in Greek and Latin I never saw his superior, except old President Stiles, nor with that exception perhaps, his equal, unless it was old Parson Farrand of Canaan.<sup>2</sup>

### III

THE circumstances under which Barzillai Slosson was admitted to Yale College can only be inferred. Promising students were often brought to the notice of President

<sup>2</sup>David S. Boardman, "Sketches of the Early Lights of the Litchfield Bar" (1860), in *Bench and Bar of Litchfield County, Connecticut, 1709-1909*. Dwight C. Kilbourn (Litchfield, 1909), p. 47.

Stiles during his "itineraries" about the state, and he either examined them then or fixed a time for them to come to New Haven. This may well have happened in Barzillai's case, for the President, making one of these journeys in the early autumn of 1789, spent nearly a week in Kent. He was entertained there by the Reverend Mr. Bordwell, of course, and on Sunday preached for him in the church on Flanders Green. He visited the Indians at Scaticook, something no minister could have omitted, and inspected the Yale Farms. Those duties finished, he went to stay with Colonel Mills, whose house, loveliest of the old farmhouses of New England—now the home of Miss Mary Bacon, a direct descendant—stood on Cobble Mountain above the head of the Green. Here, located conveniently, he settled down to study the inscriptions on the "sculptured rock" near Kent. Since he remained in Flanders from the Saturday of one week to Friday of the next, he had ample time to examine a student. But whether he did it then, or at another time and place, it is certain that Barzillai Slosson was a student in Yale in 1790 when he wrote the following letter:

Rev<sup>d</sup> President

I have been to the Rock, according to the President's Directions, and have taken the most apparent inscriptions. There are some more on the Rock, which the Inclemency of the weather at the time I was there, prevented my taking. The inscription of the Paper marked, "N<sup>o</sup>.I" is taken from the Southern side of the Rock, and is the most obvious of any on the Rock. Those on the Paper marked, N<sup>o</sup> II, were taken from the Northern side; the position of the several Figures with regard to each other is not represented on the Paper; but each Figure per se accurately represents the Original, and is separated from the others by Lines drawn for that purpose on the Paper.

I have not yet been able to procure sufficient data for an ac-



curate map of Kent, but will hand one to the President when I return to New Haven.

I am, the President's  
most humble and obedient  
servant  
Barzillai Slosson<sup>3</sup>

It is interesting to note what Yale College was like when Barzillai Slosson began the work of the senior year in 1790. There were five buildings: the president's house, Connecticut Hall, a residence for the professor of divinity, the "hall, chapel and library," and a dining hall and kitchen. There was a faculty of five men: two professors, President Stiles and Dr. Samuel Wales, Livingston Professor of Divinity, and three tutors. In November the president recorded one hundred students in attendance; but in January, following "an unhappy Tumult," he diminished that number by the rustication of two unfortunates.

Dr. Stiles was devoting a good deal of his leisure time that year, to his "beloved inscriptions," and to his growing collection of maps, and Slosson seems to have made copies of some for his use. Slosson's own interest in history and geography may date from this time; one of his manuscripts, preserved in the town library at Kent, is a brief historical sketch of the township. With this interest in common his relations with the president must have been pleasant. He must have found much in common, also, with certain members of his class; some of them—James Gould, later a colleague of Judge Reeve in the Litchfield Law School, for instance—were brilliant classical scholars, and many of them, like himself, were preparing to take up the law. In May, Barzillai competed in the "Dean's Examination," for the most coveted honor

<sup>3</sup>Manuscript letter in the Yale University Library.

of the college, the Berkeley Scholarship, and after a formidable examination—the candidates were examined publicly in the chapel, usually for five or six hours, in “Gr. Testa, Xenophon, Lucian, & Homer; & in Hor. Cic. de Orat. & Tusc. Quaest.”—he received the award. Commencement in 1791 fell on September 14th. Twenty-seven candidates appeared for the bachelor’s degree; most of them paid for their diplomas in dollars, as the President notes in his *Diary*; five of them, asserting whatever social prerogative that conferred, paid in guineas, one in a “Half-Jo”; but Barzillai Slosson and two others received theirs gratis.

#### IV

WHEN Barzillai Slosson graduated from Yale College, there were but three professions which a young man could enter: the ministry, medicine, and the law. Fourteen men out of the twenty-eight in his class at Yale had chosen law as their profession and were deciding how to prepare themselves for its practice. That question had not risen to perplex earlier generations of New England lawyers, for until the close of the Revolution there was but one way to enter the profession. The law student of those days, we are told,

began by offering his services to some lawyer of note, and, if they were accepted, paid a fee of a hundred dollars, and began to read law books and copy briefs. In the course of two years he was expected to have become familiar with Coke on Littleton, with Wood’s Institutes of Civil Law, with Pigott on Conveyances, with Burn’s Justices of the Peace, with Hawkins’s Pleas of the Crown, with Salkeld’s Reports, with Lilly’s Abridgment, and with some work on chancery and some work on what would now be called international law. This accomplished, his patron would take him into court, seat him at the lawyers’ table, whisper to the gentlemen present, and, with their con-

sent, would rise and ask leave of the Court to present a young man for the oath of an attorney. The Court would ask if the bar consented. The lawyers would then bow. The patron would vouch for the morals and learning of his young friend, and the oath would be administered by the clerk. This done, the new attorney would be introduced to the bar and carried off to the nearest tavern where health and prosperity would be drunk to him in bumpers of strong punch.<sup>4</sup>

By 1791, however, conditions were changing, and the Litchfield Law School founded by Tapping Reeve offered an alternative in the method of acquiring a legal education. Five of his classmates, having decided to take the new way, went to Litchfield and enrolled with Reeve. For some reason Slosson did not join that group; but he made what was perhaps the next best choice when he went to Sharon to serve as tutor in the Sharon Academy while he read law with John Cotton Smith, brilliant jurist, a member of the first Congress which sat at Washington, judge of the Superior and Supreme Courts of Connecticut, and one in the long line of distinguished men who have been governors of the state. This friend and patron presented Barzillai Slosson, after he had completed the two years of study which custom prescribed for men of liberal education, to the Fairfield County Court, probably in November, 1793, that being, as Judge Boardman explains, the first County Court which sat after his clerkship expired. He remained in Sharon in Smith's office for some months, but his accounts show that he was in practice for himself when the Litchfield County Court sat in September, 1794.

Many lawyers entering the profession at this time were turning to the larger cities. Four of Nathan Slosson's

<sup>4</sup> John Bach McMaster, *A History of the People of the United States . . .* 1790-1803 (New York and London, D. Appleton & Co., 1928), II, 279.

sons, born and bred in the same surroundings, became lawyers. Two chose to practice in the country: Barzillai at home in Flanders, and John at Redding. Two went to New York: William, who built up a large practice there, and Ezbon, who died soon after he was admitted to the bar.

Slosson was married January 1, 1795, a few months after he opened an office in Kent, to Mary, the daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Cass Hatch of Warren, and settled on the Green in Flanders, living first in Dr. Berry's house and later in the residence of Major Buell. They had two sons: John William (1795-1862), and Nathaniel Hatch (1798-1824). The former was a general merchant and conducted his business in what is now the rear wing of the Slosson house; the latter graduated from Union College, studied law with William Slosson in New York, and was admitted to the bar.

Of Barzillai Slosson's first year's practice only one detail is known. He collected some unpaid accounts for a hatter, William Richards, who handed over to him for that purpose the daybook in which they were entered. This daybook is a tall, thin, ledger-like volume, bound in boards and filled with hand-laid paper of substantial quality. Perhaps because the shape and size fitted it for the capacious pockets of the eighteenth-century great-coat, this sort of daybook was much affected by lawyers, and when he had concluded the business of collection and was making his final settlement with Richards, Slosson took over the book for his own use, paying three shillings for it and recording the circumstances of the purchase on the cover in characteristic detail. Richards' accounts, which rarely occupied more than a few lines at the top of the sheets, were crossed off, his own name inscribed on the first leaf with somewhat of a flourish, and that day being June 3, 1795, Barzillai Slosson began his entries in

the "fair, handsome, and legible hand" which was reckoned among his accomplishments, but which became sadly corrupted before the last entry was penned in September of 1798. With the lapse of nearly a century and a half, the ink used for the manuscript has faded to a sepia tint, but otherwise the daybook reached the Yale Law Library apparently in as good condition as when the author laid it aside. The volume is still in the original boards backed with calf, no leaf is missing or torn, none dog-eared; and the writing, with its flourishes, its long s's, its abbreviations of *Majr*, *Esqr*, *Esq*, its notation of pounds, shillings, and pence, is still plainly legible.

When the entries of the daybook were begun in 1795, Connecticut was represented in the federal government by distinguished men who had been trained for the law and had practiced in the courts of the state: Oliver Ellsworth was on the eve of appointment as chief justice of the United States, Oliver Wolcott, Junior, was secretary of the treasury, Stephen Mix Mitchell and Jonathan Trumbull were in the Senate, and Joel Barlow, a special envoy to Algiers, was negotiating the ransom of American prisoners with the Dey. There was, however, no lack of legal talent at home. During the time covered by the daybook, one hundred and twenty lawyers were practicing in Connecticut, which, according to the census of 1790, had a population of only 237,946. Forty of these lawyers were members of the Litchfield County Bar, probably the most outstanding group in the state, including, as it did, Reeve and Gould of the Law School, the younger Wolcotts, Uriah Tracy, John Cotton Smith, John Sterling, and Kirby of the Reports. No young lawyer, entering the profession at that time and place, could have expected either a large or a lucrative practice. The accounts which Barzillai Slosson entered to his credit



during that first month total £17 2½*d.* and out of that sum a number of small amounts were still to be deducted for officers' fees. Only once during the month did an entry reach the sum of a pound, and then it was the fee for a group of five cases. But, at that, Slosson and the generation of lawyers to which he belonged were doing better than Oliver Ellsworth, chief justice of the United States, had done, since he earned but £3 during the first three years of his practice, and supplemented his professional labors with farming and wood-chopping, in order to support his family.<sup>5</sup> The total, moreover, gives no very accurate impression of the volume of Slosson's practice. Modest as the sum appears to us, it represented a considerable amount of business, for legal contention at that time might be pursued at small expense, as the following entry in the daybook shows:

Bill of costs in the case of Anson Pratt  
vs. Eliphalet Richards, before Maj<sup>r</sup> Hatch

	D	Cents
Writ	o	60
Due to me		
Travel	1	34
Attendance	o	34
Court	o	34
Ex <sup>n</sup>	o	23
Due to me	2	85

But if Connecticut lawyers were poorly paid, they were patronized with great liberality: Jedidiah Morse, the "Father of American Geography," who was revising his famous work for a new edition when Slosson was beginning to practice law, summed up the character of his fellow-citizens in some long-remembered words,

<sup>5</sup>Henry Flanders, *The Lives and Times of the Chief Justices*. (New York, 1875), II, 62.

the people of Connecticut are remarkably fond of having all their disputes, even those of the most trivial kind, settled *according to law*. The prevalence of this litigious spirit, affords employment and support for a numerous body of lawyers.<sup>6</sup>

Jedidiah—himself no exception to the rule, for no one appealed to the law more readily than he—knew his Connecticut; and the daybook bears out the statement by the number and range of Barzillai Slosson's activities. He is attending trials, advising his own clients or assisting other lawyers in advising theirs; inventorying the Brick Shop; drawing leases, deeds, and bonds for deeds; attending "all day arbitrations"; hiring Whitney's horse and riding "over the mountain" to Cornwall to examine the grandjurors' complaint against a client. He is making out partnership agreements; taking depositions; writing wills or searching for wills that were written by an earlier, but seemingly no less litigious, generation. He is going to Widow Mary Edwards' house to advise her in a bargain with John Hopson; viewing the timber-cut in a wood lot; surveying land; collecting doctors' fees; appraising a yoke of oxen; posting books. He is drawing bills of sale, at one time or another, for all the commodities of the state. He is riding to Washington to summon an unwilling witness in the cause of *Kent vs Washington*, when those two towns disputed as to the support of an indigent; or drawing a warrant to transport that same indigent, who seems to have spent her declining years in a series of excursions from Washington to Kent and back again from Kent to Washington, as the selectmen of one town seized upon some momentary lapse in the vigilance of the other to shift the burden of her support.

Slosson became a justice of the peace for his native town in 1798, and served continuously in that capacity

<sup>6</sup>Jedidiah Morse, *The American Universal Geography* (Boston, 1796), I, 453.

until his death fifteen years later. His official duties did not interfere with his private law practice, however, and as the record of the daybook proceeds, it grows evident that he has found the way to build up a successful practice. Called upon for assistance in a case, he is frequently given "an engaging fee"—notably in the Winegar cases which were to become the perennial of the Litchfield County docket and the source of steady increment to Slosson's account. The town of Kent begins to furnish him pretty regular employment in those characteristic lawsuits by which Connecticut towns carried on sisterly amenities with each other. The number and variety of the legal services which Barzillai Slosson rendered to his neighbors may be inferred from the number of writs which he drew up: writs of assumpsit, of replevin; writs for malicious prosecution, for assault and battery; writs of ejectment, of covenants made and for covenants broken; writs of trover—trover for oxen, for iron, for Bostwick's logs and John Hopson's mare, for a pair of andirons; writs of trespass and of summons. An itemized account in the daybook, headed "1798 Acc't of my duties" is summed up at the foot of the page as follows:

In the whole for myself this year of 1798

	Doll	Cents
63 Justice writs at 17 cents each	10	71
30 County Court d <sup>o</sup> on this book and from docket No. 1, for Sept. CC. at 34 cents each is	10	20
In the whole	20	91

The lawyer's patience rarely seems to have given way at the pettiness of the tasks for which he was engaged. Occasionally some laconic phrase crossing an entry shows what he thought of the case, or, more often, what he thought of the prospect for collecting his fee, and once

when he entered a charge of three shillings in the day-book and specified "advice, plague, noise and trouble" one may fairly conclude that he was annoyed.

## V

LAWYERS' fees at this time were oftener than not paid in produce. Nor did this always constitute a hardship; Slosson could hardly go wrong in accepting a half-dozen fleeces or a cartload of flax-straw, since all the processes of cloth-making—linen for sheeting and napery, woolen webs for blankets and heavy clothing—were still routine tasks in most Connecticut households. Wheat was as good as money, for gristmills stood on every stream near Kent. There was no risk in taking the pigs of iron with which the furnace-men paid for their legal incursions and excursions. The blacksmith would hammer some of it into horseshoes and make an honest penny by turning the surplus over to Phineas Smith, the nailor, who, having been worsted by the furnace-men in several lawsuits, thenceforth preferred to purchase his iron from the smiths. Not only were Slosson's fees and those of other professional men frequently paid in produce, but the exchange was effected at what now seems very disproportionate rates. For example, he charged £2 2s., one of the largest fees recorded in the daybook, for "arguing cause for vexatious suit a day and a half"; and he had to pay exactly that amount to a shoemaker for making him a pair of boots. The term fee for two cases in County Court, brought against clients of his by the redoubtable Ephraim Kirby, amounted to the sum which he paid down for a portmanteau. His charge for "going to Washington, Wheaton, &c, in search of evidence in *Kent vs. Washington*" was settled by a town order which eventually he exchanged for five pounds of sugar to carry home

with him. He drew up articles of partnership on a certain Monday morning, on Wednesday he was called upon to arrange the dissolution of the same, a process which required further documentation, and his fees for those writings several months later were traded out "in full" for a pocket handkerchief and two pounds of coffee. All the dickering which this system involved was a part of the economic pattern of the time—of "life in the small." If the lawyer lived by it, so, too, did the doctor, the schoolmaster, and the minister. A large part of Lyman Beecher's salary as minister of the Litchfield church, was paid to him in such exchanges; and when Ephraim Kirby's famous volume of law reports came from Collier's press in Litchfield it was advertised in the *Weekly Monitor* (April 13, 1789) as a work, "ready for Subscribers and Gentlemen disposed to purchase, for which most kinds of Country Produce will be received."

Accounts of collection occupy considerable space in the old daybook, and in this business Slosson was employed by many prominent men of his county. Some of these accounts throw light upon the confused state of the currency at this time, for payments were often specified in "New York money," and Slosson usually transcribed the amount into its equivalent of "lawful money" (the "Lmy" of the entries) when he credited them to his clients. The depreciation which the creditor of that day faced may be illustrated by a payment of £6 8s., "New York money," dated 1794, which Slosson received for Major Talman in 1796 and was obliged to cash for £5 4s., "lawful money." Money of any sort, lawful or otherwise, was not always forthcoming, however, and Slosson was frequently forced to accept commodities for his clients as well as for himself, a circumstance which led to some curious entries in the old book. Occasionally he



notes the receipt of a payment in iron, brought direct to him from one or another of the many furnaces near Kent, and among his papers are records of promissory notes payable in iron. When he took "8 Cyder Barrels" in lieu of currency the transaction demonstrated Slosson's sound business judgment, and his predilection for Yankee dickering; for, after some bartering in which the "Cyder Barrels" changed hands several times, he finally had the satisfaction of crediting his client's account in the daybook with the entire sum due him—and annotated it, "Lmy."

Many officers of the Revolutionary army still lived in Litchfield County, and Slosson's relations with this group are indicative of his standing in a community in which they were arbiters. He lived in Major B's house; pastured his horse on Captain C's grassland; paid "Society Rates" when those became due, and collected money (New York money, regrettably, which was usually at a considerable discount) for absentee majors and colonels. Men with military titles seem to have sued and been sued less often than the rank and file, perhaps because they were often justices themselves; but the legal vicissitudes of the time and place occasionally brought their names within the covers of Barzillai's book. The Revolution, moreover, was not the sole patent of gentility in Litchfield County, and the patronymics displayed on the fading pages of the old manuscript are in the line of good Connecticut tradition: they go back to men who followed Marsh and Buel through the wilderness and founded the Litchfield settlements on the borders of the Western Lands. The first names of Barzillai's clients fit equally with his own into the background of Puritan tradition: Aaron and Abraham and Adonijah, they read; Eliezer and Epaphroditus; Hezekiah and Habbakkuk; Jacob and Jedidiah and Jehoshaphat; and so on down

the alphabet to Zechariah and Zephaniah and Zebedee.

During the time covered by the daybook, Slosson's criminal practice related chiefly to cases that involved petty crimes and misdemeanors. Assault and battery seems to have been common throughout the state; common enough, in fact, to prompt a facetious article in the Hartford newspaper, purporting to give a tariff of costs which would enable any suitor who was disappointed at law, to estimate the expense of private redress.<sup>7</sup> Consultations over property disputes which Slosson notes in the daybook indicate that divorce was not quite so rare at that time as is sometimes supposed; but Slosson, so far as the daybook specifies, was directly engaged in a case of domestic trouble but once, and then, curiously enough, the case concerned a negro and his "pretended wife." The freedmen could—and usually did—refer such disputes to the "Governour of the Blacks" for settlement, but when Caleb Hill began to feel himself aggrieved at the desertion of his "pretended wife" he appealed to the white man's law and engaged Barzillai Slosson. Slosson followed the time-honored procedure, paying costs as they accumulated and charging the same to Caleb's account. In due time the advertisement that has immemorially proclaimed the defection of wives appeared in the newspapers accompanied by the usual woodcut, which had needed only the generous application of printer's ink to make it appropriate to Caleb's wife. Whether the case was ever brought into court is uncertain, but there was a long course of preliminary negotiations, and later the lawyer was obliged to sue for his fee and costs. He received judgment, execution was levied, and eventually he credited himself with three shillings, fourpence.

<sup>7</sup>Quoted in the *Litchfield Monitor*, Feb. 27, 1793.

## VI

IF the constant round of petty litigation which fills the daybook brought its owner very little money, the fact that many of the cases were tried in justice's courts shows that it profited the principals scarcely more; for at that time only such civil cases as involved a sum not to exceed fifteen dollars and only criminal cases which carried a penalty of not more than seven dollars could be tried by a justice. Slosson's practice was not confined to justice's courts, however, and late in the second year covered by his accounts, he began to list separately in the daybook his cases in County Court. In Litchfield during these years the court usually met in March, September, and December. The hilly and boulder-strewn road that lay between Barzillai Slosson's home in Kent and the county seat was not likely to be at its best during those months. There was a bridge over the Housatonic—the covered bridge “over Bull's Falls” which had given Barzillai one of his first fees—but many streams between Kent and Litchfield must be forded if they were still open, or crossed on the ice if they were frozen over. Farmers went in ox carts or sleds if, and as, the condition of the roads permitted; or they walked as the furnace workers did. Oliver Ellsworth, in his day, had walked, too—twenty miles to and from Hartford—when court met; but times had changed since then. Now gentlemen went on horseback, unless they were elderly and permitted themselves the doubtful luxury of a “pung.” Barzillai always rode his own horse, carrying his briefs and a few law books in his saddlebags. Whitney's horse, or even Hopson's, either of which might be hired for six shillings a day, were all very well for riding about the countryside or even for the odd trip to the county seat

between sessions. But at court time, when Governor Wolcott and Chief Justice Adams were to be met on South Street or at the Center, when Litchfield would be crowded with the county notables—all the majors and colonels, the judges, justices, lawyers, and smart young men of the Law School—it behooved a barrister and a Yale man to take some thought for the morrow, not only for himself, where he should eat and what he should drink and wherewithal be clothed; but even for his horse, how it should be accoutred. Wherefore, so the reader may infer, that silver-trimmed bridle, “single rein, washed tips,” bought from John Wood, the saddler and book-binder, with a term fee. Wherefore the “trimmed, blew broadcloth coat and breeches,” the brocaded waistcoat made by Whitney and settled for—indisputably—as an entry in the daybook attests:

To cash—paid at his garden East of his house  
by highway—Mr. Bordwell’s land. Settled;

the “knapt hatt” he “bought at vendue,” the white-topped boots, the portmanteau, the shaving-box, the knee-buckles exchanged at the sacrifice of six shillings “boot.”

The December session of County Court was likely to last the greater part of the month, and here, as in all the county towns of the state when court was in session, lawyers, litigants, and witnesses came to stay. After the Catlin House was built, Slosson stayed there with his two friends, David Boardman, later judge of the County Court, and Samuel Southmayde; the three always occupying the same room, as the custom then was. But in the early days of his practice he boarded with Ebenezer Marsh when he attended court, paying a reckoning of twelve shillings a week. Slosson’s choice of a residence



showed a lively sense of what the lawyer owed to his professional standing, for the old colonial house where Marsh lived stood on South Street in the fashionable section of the town. Governor Oliver Wolcott lived on that street, his two sons—Frederick, clerk of the County Court, and Oliver, then secretary of the treasury in Washington's cabinet—Chief Justice Andrew Adams, Judge Reeve, Ephraim Kirby, Major Seymour, and other prominent citizens; and there, too, was the Law School where a full half of the Litchfield bar had studied with Judge Reeve. Across the curve of the Bantam River rose Chestnut Hill; and to the north, climbing the sloping hillsides above the town, streamed the long rows of trees in the apple orchards of the sheriff, Lynde Lord. At the center, rising against the blue of distant hills, the Litchfield County Court House stood near the Green; white-painted, reticent, with pillars and pediment and spire. Not greatly unlike many churches found on the greens of New England towns, it was a reminder of that not-distant past when the town meetinghouse had dispensed both the law and the gospel—and not infrequently “the Powder and Ball”—to Connecticut men.

Court was the one unfailing diversion of provincial life in the early days of the republic, as it had been in colonial times, and when it sat all classes of citizenry in Connecticut expected to attend. In that respect Litchfield was like all other county towns in the state. Farmers left the winter “chores” to the women and smaller boys, and took their older sons with them to town. Ironworkers banked the fires in their furnaces and gathered in from Ore Hill and Salisbury and Kent; teamsters, who should have been on their way south to New York with their loads of freight or outward bound to the Hudson River towns and Albany, stopped off at Litchfield and crowded



the tavern stables with their teams. All this the builders had taken into account, and the Litchfield courthouse was the envy of the legal fraternity in other parts of the state. Large and beautifully proportioned, the courtroom rose to a beamed roof, and a double row of windows framed views of the Litchfield hills that were famous with the judges and lawyers of Connecticut long before landscape artists took them for a theme. A wide gallery ran across one end of the courtroom, and at the other end a raised dais with a broad pulpit-like desk lifted the judges to an almost ecclesiastical height above the walnut tables where Barzillai Slosson sat with his colleagues, the famous "fighting bar" of Litchfield County.

Behind the tables of the barristers, in the space between the fireplaces, were chairs for the gentry; and back of those the room was filled with quaint pine benches, made, like the chairs, by Oliver Clark and Ebenezer Plumb at their shop "in the main South Street, a few rods below Mr. Kirby's"—for Litchfield had its own chairmakers who were signing their names on "Heart-back Cherry Chairs, Windsors and Fiddle-backs" before Lambert Hitchcock was born. The carving which added no little distinction to the fine proportions of the courtroom, was designed and executed by Litchfield men also. George Dewey and David Bulkeley had divided the labor between them and, if tradition speaks truly, it should not have been difficult to determine where the work of the one left off and that of the other began. The carved sconces for candles and the panels of doors lent themselves to a design lineally descended from carvings on the old Hartford chests that had come to Litchfield with the founders—tulips with stiffly rectilinear foliage and vines with stiffly triangular bunches of grapes—a design that had been preserved and in a way apotheo-

sized, on the paneled pulpit of the church on the Green. But from the long roof beams, across the railings of the gallery, and before the judges' bench ran a grapevine carving of quite another sort—an errancy of tendrils that perhaps should have been put to shame by the well-pruned and prolific trinity of the state seal toward which they pursued their course. Of all the furnishings of the courtroom, the massive clock that ticked off the hours of the short New England winter's day, alone was not of Litchfield make. Daniel Burnap had fashioned that—one of the few wooden-wheeled thirty-hour clocks he made—had fetched it on an oxsled all the way from his shop in East Windsor to Litchfield, and had set it up beside the bench, with its stout wooden insides none the worse for the midwinter journey over the mountains.

Unlike the church, no regular seating list was publicly promulgated for the courtroom, but the relative dignity of seats that marked the rank of the spectators was tacitly accepted by the community. The chairs at the front of the room were occupied by gentlemen, who, like Barzillai and his colleagues of the bar, still wore the dress of the Revolution: small-clothes with buckles at the knee, wide-skirted coats, brocaded waistcoats, and powdered queues. Farmers in their homespun filed in to the benches behind the gentlefolk, not their inferiors in intelligence and scarcely so in literacy: in Connecticut the professions were still recruited largely from the ranks of farmers' sons. The young men of the Law School with their portfolios sat in the gallery. A Londoner would have missed apprentices in such a crowd. New England apprentices wasted little of their masters' time, but their place in the picture was taken by the furnace workers and the teamsters who congregated in groups to the right and the left, under the gallery. Free negroes and the colored body-

servants of Southern students—at a later time “Old Grimes” was one of these—slipped into vacant spaces near the doors or crowded on the gallery stairs. Except for these blacks, so far as the floor space of the room was concerned, the judges looked down from the elevation of their desk upon a homogeneous assemblage: colonial and Connecticut stock, almost to a man—a little mellowed, perhaps, as Judge Church has said, by living for two generations or more, in a community where “neither Quakers, Prayer Books, nor Christmas were the object of penal legislation”;<sup>8</sup> but wholly Yankee, nevertheless, in physiognomy and speech. The homogeneity which prevailed on the floor of the courtroom stopped short of the gallery, however, for already the Litchfield Law School was attracting students from all the fifteen states, and in their speech, when court recessed, one might have heard all variations of accent and inflection in English that was no longer the King’s.

In this courtroom Barzillai Slosson made his first appearance in 1794. As an advocate, he had one handicap: his contemporaries record that he “rarely warmed into any high degree of animation.” The spectators who followed his first case in County Court must have been fully aware of this defect—for undoubtedly it would have been considered a defect at that time, and especially in Litchfield, where there were many unusually eloquent pleaders, who were proud of their appellation of the “fighting bar.” Every case—arguments of counsel, rulings from the bench, procedure, points of law—would have been reviewed in more popular tribunals when court adjourned: in taverns, in stores, in the Moot Court

<sup>8</sup>Samuel Church, “Litchfield County Historical Address,” in *The Bench and Bar of Litchfield County, 1709-1909*. Dwight C. Kilbourn (Litchfield, 1909), p. 9.

of the Law School. There were ruder forums, too, lit only by stable-lantern or fire that still glimmered on the forge of some late-working smith, where apprentices who could manage to steal out, after their day's labor was done, gathered to hear the livelier accounts of the furnace-men and the teamsters who loved "lawing" quite as well as their betters, and understood, no whit less, the ins and outs of that ancient game. In these discussions, Slosson's conduct of his cases must have received popular approval; for, while a list of ten entries sufficed to record his business in County Court the first time it was listed separately, with fees that came to less than fifteen pounds, the December term of the next year saw nearly double the number of entries in the daybook, and the total amount of fees more than twenty-five pounds—a very creditable increase of professional business in a year, for that time.

Slosson's business was expanding in other lines of legal practice also. His coolness and deliberation brought him into demand as an "arbitrator," and duties in connection with arbitrations often carried him outside Litchfield County and even across the state line into New York. His "dockett book"—described later—shows that he was practicing before the Superior Court in January, 1795; and two years afterward he began to enter his Superior Court cases in a separate list in the daybook. A comparison of these lists shows that his practice before the upper court ran much the same course as in the County Court. For example, the first list, that of January, 1797, shows three term fees and an "arguing fee"; while the list for the August term of the next year shows eleven term fees—again, a very creditable increase.

## VII

ASIDE from the light which it throws upon the jural life of a Connecticut county at the end of the eighteenth century, the daybook is of more than passing interest in its contributions to the social history of the time. Certain of the entries have to do with other than professional matters; and this cursory record, scarcely less arid than the legal details which crowd the fading pages, supplements the expense accounts jotted down elsewhere in the book. Together they sum up many of the outward circumstances of Slosson's everyday life: in whose house he lived and what rent he paid; where he put his cow to pasture and when he took her out; what taverns he stopped at when his clients' affairs took him abroad in the county; on which of those occasions he rode his own horse, on which of them the town of Kent furnished him a mount, and when and wherefore he hired Whitney's grey mare; how much he was charged for "dinner and horse-bait" by the different landlords on his itinerary, most of whom were, at one or another time, his clients; what was the manner of his apparel and its seasonal changes; how much he paid for the garments which he assembled from all points of the compass—material from one client, making from another. Everything is set down in meticulous detail. Barzillai knew his clients and intended to avoid—as much as was humanly possible in eighteenth-century Connecticut—appearing in court in any other than his professional rôle. None but the rash, one may suppose, disputed Barzillai's rock-ribbed "book accounts";

Paid Hopson 2/3 for dinner & horsebait &c in cash. A piece of 1/6<sup>d</sup> & a d<sup>o</sup> 0/9<sup>d</sup>.



Paid Whitney 9 shillings in full for making 2 pr. Nankeen Breeches. Paid him at Buell's store by Town Order traded out.

Equally explicit and equally modest are certain manifestations of Slosson's tastes. He took the Litchfield paper, arranged with Buell for copies of the *Herald*, and with that useful functionary, the postrider, for the *Courant*, which no gentleman in Connecticut, then, could be without, and for additional journals from Boston and New York. His annual almanac he bespoke in good time each year, lest the demand for Nehemiah Strong's—which was "Calculated for the Meridien and Horizon of Lichfield [sic]," and hence a matter of pride to every loyal citizen—should exceed the supply from the Collier press, and he find himself obliged to use some alien version of that "supreme and only literary necessity." He subscribed for Swift's *System of the Laws of Connecticut*, and noted in the daybook the receipt of his copy and the price, four dollars. The postrider brought him Salmon's *Gazetteer*; he ordered the new edition of Morse's *Geography* as soon as it came from the press; and bought Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia* when Citizen Adet's letters began to make its author obnoxious to the Federalists. Slosson loaned books, at times; but not without his usual precautions, as may be seen from the following entry, made after one of those "all day arbitrations," at which, evidently, some matters other than the one in dispute had been discussed:

Lent to Ezekiel Payne Junius's Letters—to be returned in a short time to John Hopson's house for me. Returned.

A reader of the manuscript will be convinced that Slosson documented his debts as well as his debtors. One entry, the only one of its kind in the daybook, must have been

made when some sudden emergency called for "lawful money" at a time when he had none. The character of Barzillai Slosson to which, indeed, all his colleagues testify, needs no other memorial than this entry affords:

Took 1 Dol. of Johnson vs. David Bostwick out of paper  
& put in  $1/6$  &  $4 \frac{1}{2}^d$  in a paper. And put it back the  
same day . . .

Barzillai, though he knew his Polonius, was both a borrower and a lender; but his careful account of such transactions shows that he lost neither loan nor friend, and the reader will be grateful for the lights and shadows which they add to this little vignette of a Connecticut lawyer's life:

Paid Dr. Berry  $1/6$  I borrowed of him at John Payne's  
this day. Paid at home—4 pieces of  $4 \frac{1}{2}^d$  each.

Amounts which changed hands in this way, usually only among friends, were small; so small as often to be counted in pence and pistarenes. Payment followed closely, and if delayed, the principal was not infrequently accompanied with interest:

Oct. 29. Lent Dr. Berry  $22/2$  lmy.  $1/2/2$ .  
Nov. 2. Dr. Berry paid again  $22/6$  to me  $1/2/6$ .

Not all of Barzillai's accounts were of petty and personal interest, however. Some of his cases touched matters of controversy which were of public interest at the time: abuses of the old apprentice system, happily then drawing to its close; opposition to the new turnpikes, fought tooth and nail during those years that brought in the "stage coach era" and relegated the saddlebags, the pillion, and the ox bow to the cobwebbed shadows of old barns. Some of them foreshadowed the struggle beginning

between the states, for fugitive slaves already were slipping into Litchfield, and the bitter divisions of opinion which are reflected in the novels of Mrs. Stowe were separating the people of the county into two camps.

### VIII

DAYBOOK "A," now owned by the Yale Law Library, which covers a little more than three of Barzillai Slosson's twenty years at the Litchfield County Bar, ceases with the entries for the September term of County Court in 1798. That record, however, is continued by the four Slosson manuscripts loaned to the Yale Law Library, to which reference is made at the beginning of this article. Three manuscripts loaned by Mr. Leonhard include a volume lettered "Ledger I," the entries of which correspond in the main to daybook "A"; "Ledger II" which carries entries from 1798 to 1806, and a few scattered records bearing later dates; and "Day Book VI," which is similar to "A," and records the daily business which Slosson transacted from July, 1809, to the end of the December session of the County Court in 1812. A few pages have been torn from this book, which otherwise, no doubt, would show the last entry he made, for his death occurred a few weeks after that session adjourned. The manuscript loaned by Miss Bull is autographed *Barzillai Slosson's Dockett for C. C. & S. C.* It contains entries from September, 1794, to March, 1808, and some miscellaneous information; as, for instance, the table of fees which follows:

# TABLE OF FEES

In the County Court		In the Superior Court	
Retainer . . . . .	£0.12.0	Retainer . . . . .	£0.18.0
Term Fee . . . . .	0.18.0	Term fee . . . . .	1. 4.0
Arguing Plea of abatement there being no other de- fence in the cause . . . . .	1. 4.0	Arguing plea of Abatement . . . . .	1.10.0
The same—with further defence . . . . .		——Demurrer . . . . .	2. 8.0
Arguing Demurrer or peti- tion for New trial . . . . .	0.18.0	——Issue in fact . . . . .	3. 0.0
Arguing bill in Chancery . . . . .	1.16.0	——Motion in arrest of } Judgment . . . . . }	1.10.0
Silent Appeal including term fee . . . . .	2. 2.0	——Bill in Chancery . . . . .	4.10.0
Arguing issue in fact . . . . .	1. 4.0	——On appointment of } Auditors . . . . . }	1.16.0
Arguing motion in arrest of Judgment . . . . .	1. 4.0	——remonstrance to re- } port of Auditors . . . . }	2. 2.0
——Do on appointment of Auditors . . . . .	1. 4.0		
Arguing remonstrance to the report of Auditors . . . . .	1. 4.0		

## Attending Arbitrations

each day . . . £1.10.0

Before a Justice at least nine shillings, and more in proportion to the distance and importance of the cause.

Slosson kept a letter book, also, as certain references show; but he nowhere mentions a “waste book,” though many lawyers of his time found considerable use for one. These documents present a very complete record of his business for the first three years; scattering accounts for the years 1798–1806; and a partial record for the last three years of his practice.

The accounts in these additional manuscripts show that Slosson’s business increased steadily during the twenty years of his practice. The first term of County Court which he had listed separately, in 1796, was represented by ten entries, and roughly computed, brought him about fifteen pounds in fees. For the last term of which there is a complete record, that of September,

1812, forty-five entries are listed and the business transacted totaled over two hundred dollars. A comparison of these accounts with the table of fees in the "Docket Book," quoted above, shows that fees for court cases had increased very little during that time. Retaining fees for both County Court and Superior Court were practically unchanged, and the term fee for Superior Court in 1812, as entries in the daybook show, was usually \$5.50. The greatest variation in fees seems to have been in his charge for arbitrations. At first he attended arbitrations for twelve shillings, as entries in the early manuscript show; but later the fee was rarely less than £1 10s., and sometimes, as in the case of one arbitration at Poughkeepsie where he received \$16, considerably more. Fees like that, however, and like another which he received from the Middletown Bank where he served for thirteen days as "commissioner to receive subscriptions," and credited himself with \$130, were the exception, not the rule, of a country lawyer's practice in Barzillai Slosson's time.

Notes that occur in the ledgers from time to time show that Slosson like many other lawyers, permitted students to enter his office to read law, and that they paid him a fee of forty dollars per annum. The incompleteness of records after the year 1798 makes it uncertain when he first began to take students and how many may have studied with him. There is, however, definite record of seven students between 1801 and 1813, and two of his brothers who became lawyers may also have read law with him.

Though Slosson built up his practice among his neighbors in Kent, he eventually had many clients elsewhere in the state, and a considerable number in other states. His last accounts show that cases were brought to him,



at one time or another, from most of the towns in western Connecticut. He had a good deal of patronage from points across the border in New York, especially in Poughkeepsie. Through his brother William, who was then practicing in New York City, several clients who were interested in business ventures in Connecticut employed him. He handled a few cases for Judge Reeve of Litchfield; and for three of his classmates in Yale, General Peter Buell Porter, Judge Hopkins, and the Reverend Jeremiah Day. He had several clients in Vermont, and a few in the West Indies. So far as the record shows, Slosson had but one client in England, and for that patronage he was indebted to the Reverend Samuel Peters, whose name is associated with the "Blue Law" controversy. The business in which Slosson was employed concerned Kent farms that had been of little use to their English owner since the Revolution. These farms had been purchased by Mr. Richard Jackson of London, sometime British Agent for Connecticut, and the first man who received the Doctorate of Laws from Yale. The land had been farmed industriously, it seems, but the owner received none of the profits. When he made inquiry of Dr. Peters, the latter had recommended Barzillai Slosson.

Collection business and the management of estates had from the first been a source of steady income to Slosson, and his commissions had increased with the value of the properties he managed. It is significant to note that at the time of his death Slosson was still in charge of business interests which men like Major Talman, Samuel William Johnson, and Colonel Tallmadge had entrusted to him when he first opened an office in Kent. In addition to that, Johnson's interests in the iron works at Ore Hill brought him into constant litigation, and Slosson was

rarely without some case in which that property was involved.

The business which he transacted for the town of Kent brought him in a small but fairly constant sum each year; and combined with other circumstances to make him one of the leading citizens of Kent, as his father and grandfather had been before him. Like them he was cool and far-sighted, and, again like them, he kept a watchful eye upon expenses. The town, in Barzillai Slosson's time, supported very few persons at public expense; but the legal difficulties which arose in consequence, suggest that Kent's loss, in the number of indigents, may have been the gain of adjoining communities.

## IX

SLOSSON's first ledger, among the volumes loaned to the Yale Law Library, contains a record of interest to lawyers and law librarians, the list of books which he possessed after about ten years of practice. This list, which is headed "Catalogue of my Law books, &c.," was probably complete for the year 1806, the date of the last entry, and shows that his library at that time contained about one hundred ten volumes, sixty-four of which were law books.<sup>9</sup> No list of works purchased after that time has

<sup>9</sup>The law books are: Blackstone's Commentaries, 4 vols., Powell on Mortgages, Powell on Devises, Powell on Contracts, Coke on Littleton (two editions), Strange's Reports, 2 vols., Talbot's Cases, Bacon's Abridgment, 5 vols., Morgan's Essays, 3 vols., Espinasse (two entries without titles), Buller on Trials, Coke's Entries, Swift's System, 2 vols., Coke's Reports, Croke's Reports, 3 vols., Mitford's Pleadings in Chancery, Kirby's Reports, Wyche's Practice of the Supreme Court of New York, Equity Cases Abridged, 3 vols., Root's Reports, Hinde's Chancery Practice, Chancery Reports, Grotius' *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, Clerk's Instructor in the Ecclesiastical Courts, Burrows' Reports, 5 vols., Fonblanque on Equity, 2 vols., Brooke's Abridgment, 2 vols., Grotius, 3 vols., Practice King's Bench, Jones' Law of Bailments, Salkeld, Pothier on Obligations, Caines' Reports, Evans' Essays, Williams' Abridgment, 5 vols.

turned up among the papers so far recovered, but scattering entries in other manuscripts indicate that Slosson was steadily making new acquisitions; law books, naturally, led in number, but there were historical works, books of travel, maps, and geographies; and always, of course, his beloved classics. His earlier purchases of law books were made through his very good friend and constant client, Ozias Buell, who bought them for him in New York of the old Duyckinck firm of importers. Later he bought from Isaac Beers, the New Haven bookseller and importer, probably when he was attending sessions of the Assembly. After his brother William went to New York to practice law, books were purchased through him; and others reached his shelves, as has been said, in return for professional services. One entry concerning books is of especial interest. Not until after fifteen years of business, during the greater part of which he also had been a member of the Assembly, did he pass that landmark of gentility, the setting up of a carriage; and the record in his daybook associated that event with another which probably gave him more pleasure:

	D	C
Bo't carriage & harness of O. D. Cooke & paid him	70	00
Also Shakespeare, & Day's rept's, 2 vols. 10 dolls. & pd.	10	00
As pr. Cooke's bill & receipt	80	00

The last book Barzillai Slosson purchased, shortly before his death, was Homer's *Odyssey*, in the original.

## X

IN the legislation that shaped his period of Connecticut history, Slosson had a characteristically modest part. Though no entry in his daybook reveals that fact, he had been elected to the General Assembly in 1797. He represented the town of Kent for twelve out of the next sixteen

years, and was a Clerk of the House in both sessions of 1812. He attended the term of the Litchfield County Court in December of that year, but was taken ill shortly after it adjourned. In failing health for some time and never of a strong constitution, he declined rapidly and died on January 20, 1813, having just entered his forty-fourth year. He was buried on Good Hill near his father's home, in the old cemetery where many of the pioneers of the township rest.

At the time of his death Barzillai Slosson's estate included much of his grandfather's original allotment in Kent. It was distributed to his heirs, but after the death of his widow and younger son it came into possession of the elder, John William Slosson; and the fine old house that stands near the foot of Flanders Green was occupied by Barzillai Slosson's descendants until near the end of the century. At some time during this long tenure the manuscripts which afford so detailed an account of his law practice were placed—where many years later they were found—between the sloping chimney stacks in the attic, beside some of his well-worn books of Latin and Greek.

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